

TWO NEW SPECIES OF *SPHINGIDÆ* (HAWK MOTHS)
FROM THE ORIENTAL REGION

BY

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The two new species of Sphingidae which are herein described have been acquired from me by my friend, Mr. B. Preston Clark, of Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., who is as keen a collector of *Sphingidæ* as myself. Mr. Preston Clark originally described them in the *Proceedings of the New England Zoological Club*, Vol. ix, pp. 17-19, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 1, 1924. As it is impossible for me to improve upon his able descriptions, I will take the liberty of quoting them verbatim, and adding other notes of my own. I also take this opportunity of acknowledging with thanks the honour he has conferred upon me by naming these two new Sphingids after me. The specimens were previously shown to Lord Rothschild and Dr. Karl Jordan, M.A.L., Ph. D., at the Tring Museum, Herts, England, who kindly examined them, and not only pronounced them to be new species but also very remarkable forms, especially *Compsogene mansonii* (Clark), a large species measuring 160 millimetres in expanse. Previous to its discovery there was only one other known species in this Genus, viz. *Compsogene panopus* (Cramer), the larva of which feeds on the leaves of the Mango (*Mangifera*). The discovery is therefore highly interesting.

Compsogene mansonii, sp. nov.

Compsogene mansonii Clark, Proc. New Eng. Zool. Club, vol. ix, p. 17. Cambridge, Mass. (1924).

'Al. ant. long., ♂, 70 mm. Al. ant. lat. ♂, 24 mm. Marg. ext., ♂, 36 mm.'

'*Habitat*.—Sikkim, North-Eastern India. One male (the type) in collection B. Preston Clark, collected by Mr. C. E. Fellowes-Manson, and acquired by me from him. This specimen lacks antennae, is faded, and in very poor condition.'

'Palpi yellow, bordered with brown along the eye and to the tips. Thorax and posterior portion of the abdomen above darker brown than the anterior portion of the abdomen, as in *C. panopus* (Cr.).'

'Forewing above:—A light brown basal area extends from a point on costal margin 36 mm. distant from the wing base to a point on the inner margin 21 mm. from the base, and includes the entire area basad of these points.'

'This basal area has within it three heavy sub-basal angled lines along costal margin, 3, 6 and 9 mm. distant from the base, continued irregularly and obscurely towards inner margin. There are also within this basal area two angled lines on costal margin, 22 and 25 mm. distant from the base. From the posterior of these lines extends an irregular band roughly parallel to the basal edge of a dark brown median area; this band is interrupted at the veins and extends to the inner margin. The dark brown median area extends straight across the wing basally, more obliquely than in *C. panopus*. On the costal margin it is 11 mm. in width, thence it broadens to a width of 16 mm. on R1. Between R1 and R2 it narrows sharply to 6 mm. Its narrowest point is between R2 and R3, where it is but 5 mm. wide. From this point it broadens to the hinder angle, where it is 14 mm. in width. Within this area, between M₂ and SM₂ and extending somewhat beyond M2, is a black area, which lacks the five white lines basad of it of *C. panopus*.'

'The apical portion of the wing distad from the dark brown median area is light yellow, slightly irrorated with brown, with a darker marginal band extending from SC5 to hinder angle. This marginal band is a mere line at SC5, but broadens regularly to a point between R1 and R2, where it is 4.5 mm. in width, thence it narrows to M2; from M2 to hinder angle it is hardly more than a marginal line. Distal border of wing between SC4 and SC5 is blunt.'

'Forewing beneath; Basal half light yellow, sub-basally dark brown, and including an irregular, brown line roughly parallel to the basal margin of a dark median area. This, broadens to a roughly rectangular area within the apical portion of the cell. The dark brown median area follows in general the form of that on the upper side of the wing, as do the light yellow apical area and the marginal band.'

'Hind wing above: Light yellow with very dark brown markings. The wing is crossed by four distinct bands. The first is antemedian, narrow, curved basad costally. The second, median, broad (2 to 4 mm.), irregular, widest at R1. The third, narrow, made up of lunulate lines between the veins, from anal margin to R1; from R1 to costal margin it is broader and continuous, curving basad. The fourth line is marginal at the anal angle, and narrow; it broadens continuously to the costal margin, where it is 4 mm. in width, and 5 mm. distant from the wing apex. Between these bands the yellow ground tone of the wing is sparsely irrorated with brown.'

'Hindwing beneath: Light yellow with dark brown markings, which roughly duplicate those on the upper side of the wing.'—(B.P.-C.).

Habitat.—Sikhim, N. E. Himalayas

Localities.—Darjeeling District, Brit. Sikhim.

Elevation.—(altitudinal range).—7,000 ft. (at electric light).

Months of appearance.—June.

Comparative abundance.—Extremely rare. There is only one known specimen (the type) in coll. B. Preston Clark.

Expanse.—♂ 160 mm. ♀

♀ and early stages not known. The ♀ larva most probably feeds on the leaves of a wild species of *Mangifera* (Mango). It is doubtful if this tree grows in Sikhim at a higher elevation than 3,000 to 4,000 ft. and my opinion is that the specimen I captured at the electric arc lamp in Darjeeling 7,000 ft. elevation must have been attracted by its brilliant light from a much lower elevation than this.

Theretra mansoni, sp. nov.

Theretra mansoni Clark, Proc. New Eng. Zool. Club, vol. ix, pp. 18-19 Cambridge, Mass. (1924).

'Al. ant. long., ♀, 31 mm. Al. ant. lat., ♀, 16 mm.

Marg. ext., ♀, 23 mm.'

'*Habitat*.—Sikhim, North-Eastern India. One female (the type) in coll. B. Preston-Clark collected by Mr. C. E. Fellowes-Manson, and acquired by me from him. This specimen is in very poor condition, lacking both antennae and abdomen, but its characters are sufficiently well marked to make a description possible.'

'This species is nearly related to *Theretra alecto* (Linnè) and to *T. suffusa* (Walker), being closer to the former species.'

'Head and thorax above dark brown with no median line, both as in *T. alecto*. Side stripe along the head and thorax as in *T. alecto*. but less brightly white; duller in colour with a pink tinge. Thorax beneath gray in median area and pink laterally.'

'Forewing above: Cilia pink with brown tips. Ground tone wood-brown; a darker wood-brown marginal band extends from the wing tip to hinder angle, widening evenly to this angle, where it is 9 mm. in width. This marginal band is made of three, the distal one exceeding in width the other two, and the three separated by light brown lines. Basad of this marginal band the wood-brown of the entire wing area becomes lighter in tone as it approaches the marginal band. Inconspicuous light brown stigma with dark dot in its centre. Black and white basal tufts as in *T. alecto*.'

'Fore wing beneath: Cilia pink. Basal half of wing wood-brown, this colour extending along costal margin to wing tip. Marginal band, similar in outline and in width to that of *T. alecto*, but a much darker wood-brown. Between the basal wood-brown area and the dark wood-brown marginal band is a light pink area, very narrow (2 mm. in width) between SC 5 and R2, and much broader (10 mm. in width) between R2 and SM2.'

'Hindwing above: In all respects similar to *T. alecto*, except that the wing is a deeper pink at anal angle. Cilia white.'

'Hindwing beneath: Cilia gray. Wing differs markedly from *T. alecto*. The latter form is unicolourous save for the marginal band. In *T. mansoni*

the marginal band and the entire basal half of the wing are wood-brown, the pink tone being broadly present towards anal angle and narrowing towards costal margin. (B.P.-C.).

Habitat.—Sikkim, N. E. Himalayas.

Localities.—Darjeeling District, Brit. Sikkim.

Elevation.—(altitudinal range).—7,000 ft.

Months of appearance.—June and July.

Comparative abundance.—Extremely rare. I only captured two specimens, a ♂ and ♀ of this new species; the ♂ specimen was very badly damaged and is not now in existence; so there is now only one known specimen (the type) a ♀ in coll. B. Preston-Clark.

Expanse.—♂ 76 mm. ♀ 82 mm.

Early stages not known.

Both these specimens were captured at an electric arc lamp in Darjeeling, 7,000 ft. elevation, but may have been attracted from a lower or higher elevation than this.